

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 07683 241327Z

46

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /064 W

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R 241215Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9434

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

RUE TP/AMEMBASSY TAIPEI 5958

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: LDP LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

REF: TOKYO 7603

SUMMARY: EVENTS OVER THE PAST THREE DAYS HAVE HAD NO
DECISIVE IMPACT ON THE CONTINUING LDP LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE.
BUT A ROUND OF MEETINGS OF TOP LDP OFFICIALS MAY 25 AND A
PRIMIN MIKI PRESS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 26 WILL BE
WATCHED VERY CLOSELY. END SUMMARY.

1. LDP VICE PRESIDENT SHIINA, LEADER OF THE MIKI CHALLENGE,
MADE PUBLIC MAY 21 A THREE STAGE PLAN TO "MODERNIZE" THE
LDP. IT CALLED FOR: (1) DISSOLUTION OF LDP FACTIONS,
(2) MASS RESIGNATION OF THE FACTIONALLY-BASED CABINET AND
TOP LDP OFFICIALS, AND (3) A GENERAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 07683 241327Z

TO CHART THE LDP'S FUTURE.

2. PRIMIN MIKI, ON THE OTHER HAND, TOLD THE LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MAY 21 IT WOULD PROBABLY BE GOOD TO DISSOLVE THE LOWER HOUSE AFTER LOCKHEED WAS CLEARED UP "TO SOME EXTENT." THE FOLLOWING DAY MIKI MET WITH LDP SECGEN NAKASONE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN NADAO. NAKASONE, AS LDP SECGEN, PROPOSED TO MEDIATE BETWEEN MIKI AND SHIINA. LATER, NADAO ACTUALLY MET WITH SHIINA AND WILL REPORT TO MIKI.

3. IN RELATED MATTERS:

--ASAHI, MAINICHI AND NIHON KAIZAI NEWSPAPERS ON SUCCESSIVE DAYS PUBLISHED EDITORIALS SHARPELY CRITICAL OF THE SHIINA CHALLENGE AND SUPPORTIVE OF A THOROUGH LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION.
--DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY CHAIRMAN KASUGA CALLED MIKI'S PRIME MINISTERSHIP A "NATIONAL HANDICAP."
--LDP WON AN AKITA PREFECTURE BY-ELECTION WITH APPARENTLY NO ADVERSE LOCKHEED IMPACT (SEE SEPTTEL).
--A KYODO POLL SHOWED ONLY VERY GRADUAL DECLINE IN CABINET SUPPORT RATE SINCE DECEMBER 1975 (SEE SEPTTEL).

4. MEETINGS OF LDP BIGWIGS AND ALL FACTIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 25 AS IS RELEASE OF INTERIM LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION REPORT. MIKI HAS SCHEDULED A "POST-DIET" PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THE MORNING OF MAY 26. THERE IS PRESS SPECULATION THAT MIKI AND SHIINA MAY MEET SOMETIME BETWEEN MAY 27-29.
HODGSON

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